



WOUNDED WARRIOR

Inside this Issue

PAGE 2

Warrior dancing
with stars

PAGE 3

Bush Open
results

PAGE 4

Services
and
Resources

PAGE 5

Upcoming
events

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Ginsberg visits, discusses wounded warrior program

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Daniel B.

Ginsberg, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, recently visited the Warrior and Family Operations Center here. During his visit, Ginsberg sat down for a question and answer session about the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program.

Q: What have been the program's major successes?

A: The Air Force has done a tremendous job of putting together a program that meets the individual needs of each of our wounded Airmen. I think we've listened to the Airmen and

acted on what they need and want.

Our wounded warriors are receiving unprecedented care and attention -- from the moment they are injured or become ill to when they come home and beyond. There are regional recovery care coordinators helping these Airmen get the medical attention they need and deserve as well as personal care managers helping the warriors and their families every step of the way.

I am very proud of the outstanding work we are doing for our wounded warriors

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Daniel B. Ginsberg, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, receives an Air Force Wounded Warrior Program T-shirt from Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart, commander of the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Mr. Ginsberg recently visited AFPC's Warrior and Family Operations Center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Joel Martinez)

Send your comments, feedback

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Wounded warrior dances with stars for U.S. troops

by Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- At 28, J.R. Martinez already has experienced life as a soldier wounded in combat, as a motivational speaker and as a soap opera actor.

This season, he added another entry to his resume as a contestant in the hit ABC television series "Dancing with the Stars."

Martinez dances on the show to call attention to the work of U.S. service members and veterans to keep alive their sacrifices, he said in a recent Pentagon Channel interview.

"I was injured, but able to turn it around into something positive to use as a voice for our service members and veterans," he said.

Whether Martinez and his partner dance a lively jive number or a passionate rumba, he said, he keeps one thought in mind. "Because I want to inspire and move people, I want to do it in such a big way," he said. "I have to make that impact."

And to deliver that impact, Martinez gives audiences everything he's got.

"I have to expose myself and be willing to share who I am -- my struggles and not just the joys, the laughter and the jokes," he said.



Severely burned by a 2003 landmine explosion in Iraq, J.R. Martinez dedicates his celebrity to highlighting the work of service members and veterans as a finalist on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." (Courtesy photo)

“

I was somewhat intimidated, but after talking to him about 45 minutes, I realized I was able to help him -- give him insight and hope -- which is something we all want in life”

J.R. Martinez
Army Wounded Warrior

Television appearances and a career as a motivational speaker likely weren't on his mind when Martinez enlisted in the Army in 2002 and joined the 101st Infantry Division's "Strike" brigade at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He was deployed to Iraq in 2003 when the left front tire of the Humvee he was driving hit a landmine. Three soldiers were thrown from the burning vehicle, but Martinez was trapped inside. With severe burns over 40 percent of his body,

of his life. A hospital staff member asked Martinez to share some of his experience to help another service member who had been admitted with burn injuries.

"I didn't know what I was going to say to the young man," Martinez said. "I was somewhat intimidated, but after talking to him about 45 minutes, I realized I was able to help him -- give him insight and hope -- which is something we all want in

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Four warriors golf in Bush Center open

Four Air Force wounded warriors participated in the Bush Center Warrior Open near Dallas, Oct. 10 and 11. The annual 36-hole golf competition was open to wounded warriors from all services, and attended by many celebrities and pro golfers.

After the two-day event, retired Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bradley finished best among the Airmen in fifth place with 177. Retired Tech. Sgt. David Romanowsky tied for sixth place with 183; retired Staff Sgt. David Flowers tied for eighth place with 184; and retired Staff Sgt. Scott Lilley finished 18th with 238.

"Golf is an important part of the rehabilitation process for many of those seriously injured on the front lines," writes President Bush on the Bush Center Warrior Open website. "The sport provides an opportunity to leave the hospital environment and get some fresh air. It requires focus and concentration, which can help take the mind off the recovery process and the pain. It provides a way to hone movement and motor skills."

Pro golfer Greg Norman was honored to play golf with



President George W. Bush poses with retired Tech. Sgt. David Romanowsky during the 36-hole Bush Center Warrior Open near Dallas. Romanowsky tied for sixth place with 183. (Courtesy photo)

America's wounded warriors and wrote about his experience on his official website at shark.com:

"Unfortunately for us (but luckily for the state of Texas), it was pouring with rain the day I was scheduled to play," wrote Norman. "We only managed 9 holes in the end but the sheer effort and determination these

young soldiers demonstrated in overcoming their personal physical limitations to play was pure, quintessential 'Armed Forces' discipline, commitment and dedication that I am sure, you could never learn anywhere else. Never again will I ever complain about another ailment! These guys are my IDOLS!"



Warmth for a warrior

Retired Master Sgt. Rafael Chavez is flanked by Brian Churchill (left) and Marsha Gonzales as he displays his new quilt made especially for him by the Wounded Warrior Quilt Ministry. Retired Air Force Reserve Maj. Carol Westin and her husband, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Alan Westin, work with the Protestant Parish of the Marine Corps Quantico Chapel in Virginia to provide quilts for wounded warriors. Chavez visited the Warrior and Family Operations Center at Randolph Force Base, Texas, on Oct. 25 to receive his quilt. (Air Force photo/Tammy Cournoyer)

Services and Resources

[Tutor.com](#) provides homework tutoring and guidance (includes high school and college-level courses) to students. This resource is free to all active-duty Airmen, Reservist, Guard, wounded warriors, deployed civilians, and their families. This is a helpful tool for wounded warriors going back to school or for those who have children in school.

The Real Warriors Campaign offers several different social media messages through Facebook and Twitter. Topics vary from personal stories of recovery to benefits to managing stress, and more. To see the selections, please click [here](#).

The Air Force offers a Web page dedicated to helping Airmen and their family members with voting questions. Voting in the United States is controlled and conducted by state governments that have various rules, whether it's voting early by absentee or at local polls. The page contains numerous resources as well as information on how to register and vote, either locally or by absentee ballot, in accordance with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. To visit the page, click [here](#).



If you need assistance with paying your rent or mortgage, these resources might be able to help: Rental Assistance - The [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) can assist you with privately owned subsidized housing or public housing. Mortgage Assistance - The [Making Home Affordable](#) program may be able to help you lower your payments or rates, exit a mortgage gracefully, or get help if you lost your job or your home has lost value.

'Portraits in Courage' features extraordinary Airmen

Volume VI of the Air Force's "Portraits in Courage" features Master Sgt. Benjamin Horton, an Air Force wounded warrior who was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 when he was injured by an improvised explosive device.

The "Portraits in Courage" series highlighting brave Airmen who have extraordinarily demonstrated one of the Air Force's core values: service before self.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy introduce the series:

"This edition augments the individual

vignettes with an extended narrative that demonstrates the teamwork that these heroes routinely practice. Whether risking life or limb to call in air strikes, deftly disarming improvised explosive devices, running through a gauntlet of enemy fire or tirelessly providing humanitarian support, the Airmen who are showcased here exemplify the warrior ethos.

"Although they represent only a cross-section of our Air Force, these Airmen demonstrate the character of our citizens who answer the call of duty by volunteering to serve our Nation in a time of conflict. Because valor

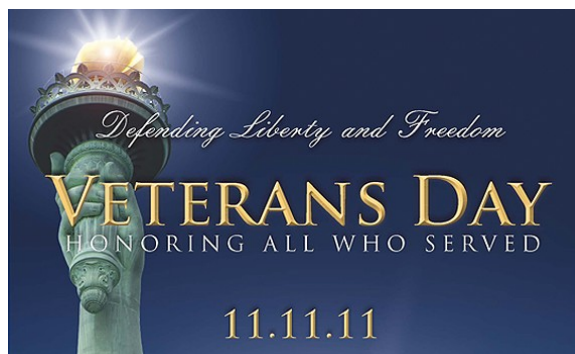
has no expiration date and courage is timeless, it is our hope that these stories will inspire future generations of men and women to also undertake noble service to our country."

To read more about Sergeant Horton and other Airmen, please click [here](#).



Upcoming events

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is taking place Nov. 11 at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony begins precisely at 11 a.m. with a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. For those who can't attend the ceremony at Arlington, the Veterans Day National Committee selects a number of regional sites for Veterans Day observances throughout the country. From stirring parades and ceremonies to military exhibits and tributes to distinguished veterans, these events serve as models for other communities to follow in planning their own observances. For more information, click [here](#).



The [National Sports Center for the Disabled](#) offers a ski and snowboard program in Denver for individuals of any age who have served in the U.S. military and now have a disability and want to learn to ski or snowboard, or improve existing skills. Space is limited, so please make reservations early. Session I is set for: Jan. 8, 22, 29, and Feb 5 and 12. Session II is set for Feb. 26, and March 4, 11, 18 and 25. Rates are: \$205 per person for the five-week alpine ski or snowboard session; \$164 per person for the five-week Nordic ski and snowboard lesson, or partial-day cross-country ski and snowshoe lesson, lift ticket, equipment and transportation. Also in Denver, join forces with military men and women with disabilities who have served the nation. A two-day event is facilitated by a staff that includes U.S. military veterans. Both women and men are welcome. Evening activities are also planned. Session 1 takes place 1 p.m. Jan 31 through noon Feb 1. Transportation to and from Denver International Airport or metro-area sites, activity fees, instruction and equipment, lodging and meals are included for free. Call 970-726-1540 for more information. Registration deadline is Jan 10.



In observance of Veterans Day, several local and national-chain restaurants are offering specials for people who are serving or have served in the armed forces. Check local media outlets for restaurants -- and other businesses -- in your area that may be offering discounts.

Do you need to update your contact information?

NOTE - Updates should be provided to: AFW2 Program Office, AFPC Disabilities Branch, DEERS, DFAS, and the VA.

AFW2 Program Office – Call **800-581-9437** or via email: wounded.warrior@us.af.mil

AFPC Disabilities Branch for people on the Temporary Disability Retired List – Email disability@us.af.mil

DEERS – Updating info in DEERS is accomplished in one of three ways:
Call **800-538-9552**

Visit a military base ID card issuance facility

Visit the website at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/indexAction.do>

DFAS – Online at “myPay” website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

VA – Call **800-827-1000** or visit their website at www.va.gov for the nearest VA office

